

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 114949

R 201531Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6766

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF GOOSE BAY

1. LOCAL PRESS AND TV BROKE STORY OF GOOSE BAY CLOSURE PRIOR TO RELEASE OF OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. AS RESULT, ON JUNE 19, FONMIN MACEACHEN WAS ASKED IN PARLIAMENT IF STORY ACCURATE AND IF SO, WHEN HAD USG INFORMED GOC THAT IT WOULD WITHDRAW? FONMIN REPLIED THAT FACT OF CLOSURE HAD BEEN KNOWNFOR LONG TIME AND WAS FAIRLY COMMON KNOWLEDGE. HE WAS THEN ASKED WHETHER NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ALSO INFORMED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HE REPLIED THAT FORMER SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SINCE ITS REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF MATTER.

2. COMMENT: FONMIN STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT HAS HOPEFULLY ENDED A MINOR TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT AS CONSERVATIVE PARTY MEMBERS SOUTH TO GAIN A FEW POLITICAL POINTS AT LIBERAL PARTY'S EXPENSE BY CRITICIZING WAY MATTER WAS HANDLED AND BY ALLEGING PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS (WHO ARE CONSERVATIVES) WERE NOT INFORMED. BUT AS FONMIN SAID, AND AS EVEN TV INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL GOOSE BAY CITIZENS HAVE SHOWN, US DEPARTURE FROM GOOSE BAY NO SECRET FOR SOME TIME
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ALREADY. JUNE 19 EDITORIAL IN ST JOHN'S DAILY NEWS

ALSO POINTS OUT THAT "AMPLE WARNING" WAS GIVEN BY US
"MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO" AND THAT "TASK FORCE" WAS SET
UP AT THAT TIME TO HANDLE TRANSITION PROBLEMS.

3. GOC STILL PLANS ISSUE PRESS RELEASE (TEXT WILL BE
FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE), BUT
EMBASSY SUGGESTS USG NOW CAN REPLY TO RRESS INQUIRIES BY
CITING FONMIN'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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